



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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12/19/05

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY, HEALTHY &
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, 2006, TO ALL!
And A VERY HAPPY HANUKKAH TO ALL OBSERVING IT.**

Tax-cut legislation headed to governor

A package of bills that would provide approximately \$600 million in tax relief to major job providers in Michigan is now awaiting the governor's signature. The legislation is designed to entice businesses to come to Michigan, and to strengthen our borders against other states intent on stealing Michigan jobs.

Specifically, the legislation headed to the governor will:

- Maintain Delphi's and Visteon's current tax status, relieving them from a massive tax hike at the end of 2005.
- Create a 15% refundable personal property tax credit to reduce a firm's Single Business Tax [SBT] liability, effective Jan. 1, 2006.
- Establish a 100% new investment credit which will be given for personal property taxes paid on property directly related to jobs transferred to Michigan in 2007 and 2008. Transferred jobs are high technology or manufacturing jobs that were located in a different state or country before being moved to this state in the immediately preceding tax year. The updated version of the legislation approved Tuesday makes it easier for Michigan's Big Three automakers to take advantage of the credit.
- Change the sales tax apportionment factor from 90% to 92.5% for 2006-2007 and to 95% for 2008-2009. This will give a tax advantage to Michigan-based businesses who export goods, as opposed to those based outside of Michigan but conducting business here.

Water-use regulations passed by Senate

The Senate unanimously approved legislation to provide comprehensive regulations for water use in Michigan. Senate Bills 850-852, 854 & 857 create new standards for water

withdrawals and permit programs for water users to help them avoid adverse impacts on the environment. These new regulations would help prevent a water crisis in the future and help preserve the Great Lakes for future generations.

Sen. Patterson's bill, SB 851, establishes an on-going Groundwater Advisory Council to update the Legislature with the scientific facts necessary to make right assessments of water use from underground sources.

The package will:

- Put in place a system to manage significant new water withdrawals that have potential to impact our water and water-dependent natural resources;
- Implement an interim standard that will provide protections for key designated trout streams by defining critical zones around the streams;
- Develop an easy-to-use model to replace the interim standard that will allow a user to click on a map and determine if water use will cause an adverse impact;
- Implement a permitting program for the largest water users in the state; and
- Authorize the creation of groups of water users to work with the DEQ in crafting water plans that resolve water use problems before adverse impacts occur.

Unanimously, Poet Laureate bill passes Senate

On December 13, the Senate forwarded Sen. Patterson's SB 181 to the House for consideration. Mono V. D'Angelo, president of the Poetry Society of Michigan, thanked Sen. Patterson for championing this bill. The Poet Laureate can be an inspiring figure to draw students to new awareness of creativity with words; this can reinforce the value of studying spelling, grammar, syntax, and meaning. The Laureate can be a focus for poetry and arts festivals around the state, with economic benefits to host communities. Only 11 states lack such a permanent post; Michigan is currently one. In the past, the Legislature named Will Carleton and Edgar Guest Poets Laureate, but the title did not continue.

Private Property Rights can get new constitutional protection

The rights of Michigan's private property owners will be before voters on the ballot in 2006 thanks to a constitutional amendment approved by the Legislature. Sen. Patterson, the Senate's senior attorney, was extensively consulted in making the language strong.

Following a narrowly divided U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*, which allows seizure of private property for private economic development projects, a constitutional amendment was drafted to help protect the rights of Michigan's private property owners. Senate Joint Resolution E would strengthen Michigan's Constitution by defining public use more closely, to restrain use of "eminent domain".

SJR E was passed by both chambers with strong bipartisan support; it is slated to be on ballots for the November 2006 general election.

BULLETIN: *The American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan Friday declared an emergency appeal for all eligible blood donors.* Recent storms cancelled several blood-drives in the area. Need is often high at this time of year. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit www.givelife.org today to schedule an appointment or locate a blood drive or donor center.

Protections for emergency workers passed

The Senate improved upon HB 4508, to extend legal protections to those helping in emergency situations. Sen. Patterson inserted language to make certain that interns in such circumstances were still under the direction of licensed professionals.

Telegraph Road safety to be upgraded

After long efforts to improve US 24 / Telegraph Road, Brownstown, with MDOT funds, the federal highway administration has provided some, to answer safety concerns. The \$27 million project involves reconstructing, widening, and repaving 2.5 miles of road between Vreeland and West Roads. The work will include addition of a new left turn lane. The four existing lanes also will be widened to 12.5 feet. New curbs and gutters will be built; intersection improvements will include signal upgrades and new right-turn lanes. Construction will take about a year.

"My office has received numerous calls with traffic concerns along this stretch of road and I've had conversations with MDOT," said Sen. Patterson. "I'm pleased that they have advanced the time table for this important project."

Art Wright, Brownstown Twp. Supervisor, and Trustee John Cronin, were both thrilled to learn that Sen. Patterson's work would now benefit the Downriver community. "We are thankful to Sen. Patterson for his work behind the scenes. What a wonderful present this will be to Brownstown residents!" said Cronin.

Direct shipping of Wine allowed

After months of negotiations, bills allowing direct shipping of wine in Michigan were signed. The legislation, Senate Bill 625 and House Bill 4959, comes after months of negotiations and allows wineries to ship up to 1,500 cases per year directly to Michigan consumers after applying for a permit. Sellers also will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Liquor Control Commission and pay all applicable sales and excise taxes.

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down Michigan's law banning direct wine shipments from outside the state while allowing shipments from in-state wineries because it discriminated against out-of-state sellers.

Human Torture banned

The Senate Judiciary Committee, on Nov. 29, created legal penalties for human torture. It has long been against the law to torture animals, -- but not humans! This void came to light in a domestic violence case recently. The bills amended are HB 5268 and HB 5269. Sen. Patterson is a member of the Committee.

Lawmakers pass welfare-reform legislation

Michigan's welfare policy would be improved, and opportunities for the state's neediest expanded, under reforms passed by the Legislature and sent to the governor. Lawmakers want to focus on state programs that offer job training and educational opportunities to long-term welfare recipients.

After the initial welfare reform legislation under Gov. Engler, Michigan saw its caseloads drop from about 240,000 to around 77,000. Those remaining on welfare need intensive assistance including education, job training and related programs to become independent, especially given the state's economy.

The legislative package also will strengthen accountability for people abusing the welfare system and improves accountability measures for state departments, to ensure long-term welfare recipients are identified and efforts properly focused on them.



Sen. Patterson enjoys local parades

Belleville, Trenton, and Gibraltar held annual Christmas Parades on Sat., December 3. Despite the cold, turnout was good. Local bands & entries were appreciated by all viewers. The lady with the "Santa antlers" is race car driver, Dr. Audrey Zavodsky. Sen. Patterson addresses the crowds at the reviewing stand.

Scouting's Highest Awards in the District, 2005

Throughout the year, the Seventh District has been distinguished by the achievement of Eagles by a number of Boy Scouts, and of Gold Awards by several Girl Scouts. Sen. Patterson had the honor of recognizing them individually at the time.

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| Sarah Schmidt | Metro Detroit Council |
| Courtney Davidson | Metro Detroit Council |
| Alexander A. Nelson | Troop 781, Plymouth |
| John N. Lamphear | Troop 781 |
| John R. McCormick | Troop 781 |
| Anthony Smith | Troop 857, New Boston |
| Timothy M. Cameron | Troop 802, Huron District |
| Joshua J. Raj | Troop 802 |
| Timothy Peter Leong | Troop 1721, Trenton |
| Thomas Conrad Duffett | Troop 1261, Grosse Île |
| Kyle David Burdette | Troop 782, Livonia [Res. of Plymouth] |
| William Waterstreet | Troop 777, Northville |
| Ian Đăng Trân | Troop 854, Canton |

Congratulations to all these fine young people for their achievements.

Office hours schedule for January, 2006

On **Tuesdays** of each week, starting Jan 10th, Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the following places:

January 10th Brownstown Community Center

January 17th Northville Public Library
 (includes Northville Twp constituents)

January 24th Trenton Library

January 31st Plymouth Library
 (includes Plymouth Twp constituents)

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >. You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!